



SPECIFICATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

BE IT KNOWN, That I, Larry Regelin, a citizen of the United States, residing in Minnetonka, Hennepin County, State of Minnesota, have invented new and useful improvements in MEMORY MARKER FOR A GRAVESITE of which the following is a specification.

Field of the Invention:

5 This invention is aimed at providing a durable marker for installation in the ground adjacent a grave site for holding a photograph or other memorabilia in memory of the deceased. More specifically, it is a marker made out of flexibly resilient clear polymer plastic with the photograph or the like secured in a framed area between two similar nested members.

Background of the Invention

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There are a number of prior art devices for holding photographs and the like in the form of ordinary picture frames and there are a number of prior art devices for placing signs, such as real estate signs or outdoor sale sign, upright using a stake or post inserted into the ground. These devices usually are made out of a combination of different materials. Some have
15 members or attachments to protect the sign against weather elements and some are constructed so that the content of the sign can be changed from time to time.

Summary of the Invention

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A pair of substantially similar nestable members are made out of flexibly resilient transparent plastic such as PVC, each member having a fairly shallow cavity defined by a generally planar floor surrounded by an enclosing wall. The floor has a slight indentation which is dimensioned with respect to the surrounding wall to define a framed area for a photograph or the like. One member is nested snugly within the cavity of the other member
25 with the respective bottom walls in close proximity to securely hold the photograph in place between them within the framed area. A pointed stake extends out from an edge of one of the members for insertion into the ground to hold the marker upright at the gravesite. In addition, a flange may be provided which extends completely around each of the members extending outward from the walls which surround the cavities. The flange in combination with the nested
30 members helps to seal off the interior area where the photograph is contained to protect it against damage from the weather. The two members can be disengaged or pulled apart if desired to remove and/or replace the photograph and then recoupled together.

In a preferred embodiment the members and the stake are made integral with one another as a single sheet of plastic with the two members joined together along an edge by a living hinge. Alternatively, the two members may be separate from one another.

5 Brief Description of the Drawings:

Fig. 1 can be considered a plan or front view of an embodiment of the invention in the open condition;

Fig. 2 is a side view of Fig. 1;

10 Fig. 3 is a plan or front view showing an embodiment of the invention in closed or use position;

Fig. 4 is a sectioned view of Fig. 3; and

Fig. 5 is a side view illustrating another embodiment of the invention.

15 Description of the Preferred Embodiments:

A pair of substantially similar members 10A and 10B are formed of flexibly resilient transparent polymer plastic such as PVC by a conventional thermo-forming process. Each of the members has a cavity, 11A and 11B, respectively, defined by a generally planar bottom or floor 12A and 12B, respectively, surrounded by an upstanding wall 13A and 13B, respectively. The respective cavity floors 12A and 12B each has a very slight outer indentation 14A and 14B, respectively, with the outer edges of the indentations defining a frame area 15A and 15B, respectively, with their corresponding cavities' surrounding walls 13A and 13B. Extending outward from each of the respective surrounding walls parallel to the cavity floor are enclosing flanges 17A and 17B, respectively. Attached to and formed integrally with an edge of one of the members, for example, 10B, is a pointed arrow-like stake 18. In one embodiment, illustrated in Figs. 1-4, members 10A and 10B are joined together by an integrally formed living hinge 20 at an edge of the respective flanges.

25 In practice, a photograph or other similar flat or planer memorabilia is placed in the depression area 14 of one of the members, for example 14B, and the other member 10A is swung about living hinge 20 over member 10B to nest member 10B into cavity 11A. The members are dimensioned and the materials of which they are made are such that member 10A will nest snugly in cavity 11B to hold the photograph or the like firmly between the two floors 12A and 12B in the framed areas 14. The snug fit between the side walls 13A and 13B not

only serve to hold the photograph firmly in place within the framed area but also provide a secure protective shield against weather elements. In addition the overlap of the flanges 17A and 17B serve as a further seal against outside weather elements reaching the interior location of the framed photograph. The stake 18 is inserted into the ground adjacent the gravesite to hold the marker upright in place. If desired, the marker can be removed from the ground and the two members 10A and 10B disengaged or pulled apart and the photograph removed and replaced in the same manner as described above.

Typically, with no limitation intended, a marker made according to the teachings of the invention is made of .030 in. clear PVC, an outer width (including flange 17) of about 6.25 in., a depth of cavity 11 about .38 in., the width of the frame 15 about .5 in., the depth of the shallow indentation about .08 in. and the dimension of the framed area about 3 in. by 5 in. to hold a conventional 3x5 photograph.

Alternatively, the two members 10A and 10B, may be formed of the same material but not connected by a living hinge, as illustrated in Fig. 5. In all other respects the marker is identical to the above-described embodiment and functions the same and is used in the same manner with the same attendant benefits and features.